

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for organizing visual digital objects and for selecting one or more of such visual digital objects for viewing, comprising the steps of:
 - a) developing a histogram timeline which identifies a number of visual digital objects organized according to predetermined time periods and providing thumbnail representations thereof;
 - b) selecting a portion of the histogram timeline for viewing such thumbnail representations of visual digital objects corresponding to such selected portion; and
 - c) determining if one or more of the viewed such thumbnail representations is of interest and then viewing the corresponding digital visual object(s).

2. A method for organizing digital multimedia objects and for selecting one or more digital multimedia objects for viewing or processing, comprising the steps of:
 - a) developing a histogram timeline which identifies a number of digital multimedia objects organized according to predetermined time periods and providing representations thereof;
 - b) selecting a portion of the histogram timeline for viewing representations of digital multimedia objects corresponding to such selected portion; and
 - c) determining if one or more of the viewed representations is of interest and then viewing or processing the corresponding digital multimedia object(s).

3. A method for organizing digital multimedia objects including visual and audio and for selecting one or more of digital multimedia objects for viewing or listening, comprising the steps of:

a) developing a histogram timeline which identifies a number of such objects organized according to predetermined time periods and providing thumbnail or iconic representations of the visual objects and text or iconic representations of the audio objects;

b) selecting a portion of the histogram timeline for viewing representations of such objects corresponding to such selected portion; and

c) determining if one or more of the viewed representations is of interest and then viewing or listening to the corresponding digital multimedia object(s).

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the representations correspond to a combination of visual and audio representations.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the visual and audio objects include still and motion images.

6. A method for organizing digital multimedia objects and for selecting one or more of such objects for viewing or processing, comprising the steps of:

a) developing a histogram timeline which identifies a number of digital multimedia objects organized according to predetermined time periods and providing representations thereof;

b) selecting a portion of the histogram timeline for viewing representations of digital multimedia objects corresponding to such selected portion; and

c) repeating step b) until it is determined which representations are of interest and then viewing or processing the corresponding digital multimedia objects.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the histogram timeline is constructed by:

- i) accessing a plurality of digital multimedia objects stored together or in distributed fashion and forming a database;
- ii) establishing the date of origination of each digital multimedia object from file header data or object metadata; and
- iii) determining the number of digital multimedia objects in the database that originated at each date to form the histogram timeline.

8. The method of claim 6 further including:

- iv) rendering the histogram timeline so the horizontal axis being time and the vertical axis is the number of digital multimedia objects, with the timeline length running from the earliest to the latest dates of the digital multimedia objects in the database and the duration (width) of the histogram timeline bins being responsive to the resolution and size of the display.

9. The method of claim 6 further including the step of changing the histogram timeline to vary the earliest to latest dates.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein the representations are provided in a separate viewable area than the histogram timeline and include the thumbnail images and icons of the digital multimedia objects have a displayed date and time of origination.

11. The method of claim 6 wherein the thumbnail and iconic representations are grouped according to the events to which they relate.

12. A viewable histogram timeline, comprising:

- a) the histogram timeline which identifies a number of visual or multimedia digital objects organized according to predetermined time periods; and
- b) representations corresponding to portions of the histogram timeline which are actuable by a viewer selecting such portions to view such representations.

13. The viewable histogram timeline of claim 12 wherein the timeline is arranged in vertical and horizontal axes so that the horizontal axis is time and the vertical axis is the number of objects, with the timeline length running from the earliest to the latest dates of the objects in a database.

14. The viewable histogram timeline of claim 12 wherein the representations are thumbnail images.

15. The viewable histogram timeline of claim 12 wherein the representations are provided in a separate viewable area than the histogram timeline and include the thumbnail images and icons of the digital multimedia objects have a displayed date and time of origination.

16. The viewable histogram timeline of claim 12 wherein the thumbnail and iconic representations are grouped according to the events to which they relate.

17. A computer storage medium having instructions stored therein for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 1.